

URBAN DISTRICT OF CROSTON.

REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of Croston

during the year 1925,

BY

ALFRED DUCKWORTH, L.R.C.P.,

L.R.C.S., L.S.A. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

Croston,

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CROSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report for 1925.

CROSTON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Croston Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Croston Urban District, for the year 1925.

There is nothing of any outstanding character to report, the year on the whole being of what I may term a normal one, the weather was better than the previous year, 1924, there being more sunshine, the 1925 summer being a distinct improvement on 1924.

Population.

The population of the district does not vary very much. The census of 1921 gave us a population of 2013, in 1924 the Registrar General estimated that it had decreased to 1952, but for 1925 the estimate has increased to 1969, an increase of only 17 persons.

Deaths.

There were 30 deaths of persons belonging to this district, during 1925, of these 21 were males, and 9 females. In 1924 there were 26 deaths.

The death rate for the year on the estimated population of 1969, is 15·2 per thousand, this is 1·9 per thousand higher than in 1924, and 1·4 per thousand higher than the mean of the 5 years 1920-1924. It is also higher by 3 per thousand than the death rate for the whole of England and Wales.

Of the 30 deaths, 10 were those of persons over 70 years of age, and of these 10, 5 were over 80 years, and 2 over 90 years of age.

There were 5 deaths of children under 1 year, which is far more than we have had for a good many years, in 1924 there was only 1 such death. These five deaths give an Infantile Death Rate of 131 per thousand births, which is 97 per thousand births higher than 1924. There were 6 deaths of persons between 50 and 60 years.

Causes of Death.

Five of the 30 deaths were due to Pneumonia, this being the greatest number attributed to any one disease, 4 were caused by Bronchitis, and 4 by Disease of the Heart. One death was due to Sleeping Sickness, and one to Influenza. There were no deaths due to the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and no woman died in childbirth.

Births.

There were 38 births registered as having taken place in the Croston District in 1925, 22 of these were males and 16 females. These 38 births give a birth rate of 19·2 per thousand of our population, which is 4·4 per thousand higher than 1924, and 1·6 per thousand higher than the mean for the previous 5 years.

One of the births was illegitimate.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 12 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, 8 being cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Diphtheria, and 2 of Erysipelus. Six of the Scarlet Fever cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital at Aughton and I consider that early removal to Hospital is a great factor in preventing the spread of the disease. The two cases of Diphtheria were at different times of the year in different parts of the district, and I could trace no probable cause. Mumps were very prevalent amongst the children in the first quarter of the year, and Chicken Pox during the June quarter.

There were no deaths from any of these Infectious Diseases.

The only cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year were Non Pulmonary, and there were no deaths from this cause.

Sanitary Conditions.

The Sanitary Conditions of the district are kept under constant supervision, and on the whole continue good.

The scavenging and street cleaning are well done by the Council's workmen.

There is far less dust and mud in the streets, than in years gone by, and the tar-spraying where the roads are appropriate, serves a useful and sanitary purpose.

There is still a large amount of overcrowding in the cottages which it is impossible to deal with, but owing to the cleanliness of the people no great harm appears to take place from it.

There has been some little advance made in the building of new houses, there were 5 new houses in 1925, but none of them are "To Let" as the occupier is the owner, but it helps to relieve the congestion to a small degree. The one objection I have to the so called "Subsidy Houses" is that they are too small, and personally I consider it a mistake to limit them to the small size they are, as with a decent sized family they would soon be overcrowded.

I think it would be preferable to encourage the building of big roomy cottages, which are both healthier and more comfortable than the very little houses which are being built. The subsidy need be no greater.

The Milk, and Water supply of the district were satisfactory during the year, both plentiful and of good quality.

The places where food is prepared have been kept under supervision, and are in a cleanly sanitary condition.

The quality of the animal food supplied to the public has been of a high grade, and I have reason to believe that the animals slaughtered for human consumption have been of a wholesome and healthy nature.

The purveyors of food have adapted themselves to the new food regulations in a reasonable way.

Taken on the whole your Sanitary Inspector and myself find no difficulty in dealing with any nuisance or sanitary irregularity, as both owners and occupiers do their best as a rule to fall in with our wishes, and there is rarely any need for more drastic measures.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

A.	Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	2
B.	With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	1

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme Nil

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(a)	By loans ?	No.	No.....
	Amount of loans, £.....		
(b)	By subsidy ?	Yes.	No. 1
	Amount of subsidies, £75 .		...

Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ..	14
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil

- (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... Nil

Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners.....	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....
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(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners..... (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c. .. Nil

Factories and Workshops

	No. of Inspections.					
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	4
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	50

In conclusion I may say, as I said at the beginning, that we may consider 1925 a normal year, there are some points that are not so good as in previous years, for instance the death rate was higher, but the birth rate was also higher.

We had more Infectious cases but we were spared any epidemic of any kind.

Employment on the whole has not been bad compared with many districts in the county, and there has been little or no distress or want that has in any way affected the public health.

In addition to this report, I submit a number of tables giving details and statistics of the sanitary conditions and arrangements of the district which along with this report will be sent to London and Preston.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED DUCKWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

CROSTON,
APRIL, 1926.

